



Spring 2021



Christian Science Nursing  
**COLLABORATIVE**

The unfolding spiritual idea on which we desire to base our work is protected by God, directed by God, and sustained by God.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative newsletter!

The Collaborative Coordinating Committee (C<sub>3</sub>) and the Collaborative Working Groups have been meeting regularly using Zoom to continue their work and make progress toward the five key goals established in 2018. These are:

1. Increase the number of qualified Christian Science nurses
2. Increase our ability to collaborate
3. Make information and resources about Christian Science nursing more available
4. Awaken the natural desire to care for one another
5. Increase the quality of patient care

The volunteers who make up the C<sub>3</sub> and each Working Group, as well as the Collaborative Support Team (paid staff who help maintain the administrative aspects of this venture) — have all committed to forward progress, despite current world conditions. An idea from an article, “The Unfolding Spiritual Idea of Your Activity” by H. Jack Wyman, sums up the purpose and related progress beautifully:

The showing forth of a right idea can unfold continually, because a spiritual idea is ever active, properly functioning, blessed by divine Mind itself. It has glorious, unlimited possibilities. It can never be hampered, sidetracked, or stopped. It is joyous, full, abundant, satisfying, truthful, magnificent in its unfoldment and achievement. The unfolding spiritual idea on which we desire to base our work is protected by God, directed by God, and sustained by God. It is not subject to human events, economic or political conditions, or any of the vagaries a false belief of a would-be mortal mind might impose on it. In carrying out our business we can depend on our divine source, Mind, for whatever is needed to solve every possible challenge. There is always a right answer in divine Mind! As Mrs. Eddy says, “God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis.”

From the October 1986 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*

Please enjoy the updates from the Collaborative members and Working Groups. And go to [Who We Are](#) to learn more about our history and what we are working on. If you would like to connect with the Collaborative, email [info@csncollaborative.org](mailto:info@csncollaborative.org) and let us know how we can help you.



## UPDATES

### Collaborative Coordinating Committee (C<sub>3</sub>):

The C<sub>3</sub> (consisting of representatives from AOCSN, CSNN, The Philanthropy Forum, and The Manager of Christian Science Nursing at the Mother Church (TMC) meets monthly to keep tabs on the overall progress of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative Working Groups. This provides an opportunity to share perspectives from each of our specific organizations, and to have an overview of how each group's work coordinates with others, eliminating duplication and focusing efforts. C<sub>3</sub> also helps to organize opportunities for the whole Collaborative to share information and to work to be more effective — including bringing in trainers and technical experts to support online meetings and conferences.

We have been grateful to witness much progress last fall and early this year, including the start of a few new Working Groups to work on areas needing attention:

- Training Accessibility and Affordability for Christian Science Nurses
- Fundraising (to support solutions developed by the Working Groups)
- Leadership and Management Training

We have also seen the restructuring of priorities and goals for the Valuing Christian Science Nursing Working Group

into one team that focuses on compensation, housing, and retirement benefits for those working in facilities — and another team that looks at the same issues, but for those working private duty.

Early this year, we had the opportunity to collaborate with the Christian Science Nursing Network's (CSNN) board when they generously invited every Working Group to give two brief workshops at the 2021 International Christian Science Nursing Conference (ICSNC). Over 200 Christian Science nurses from around the world participated in this online conference. Each of the Working Groups shared an overview of their efforts in several breakout sessions, getting the attendees' input and answering questions. The goal was to make more Christian Science nurses aware of the Collaborative's efforts (on their behalf); increase and broaden an understanding of the issues; and invite support and participation from individual Christian Science nurses.

The C<sub>3</sub> continues to focus on finding a new home for the CST (Collaborative Support Team) which is moving from The Principle Foundation. We are close to announcing details of the harmonious transition from its current location to its new home. We will keep you posted.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the CSN Collaborative.

## OUR NEWEST WORKING GROUPS

### Fundraising Working Group

“When we are willing to help or to be helped, divine aid is near.” (*Miscellany*, p. 166:19-20)

Our Working Group is focusing on identifying approaches that will make it easier for the Collaborative's Working Groups to seek and secure funding. That funding might be for a pilot project they wish to undertake or for an ongoing solution they have developed to a specific challenge in the field of Christian Science nursing. All of the Working Group efforts support the two key goals of increasing the numbers of qualified Christian Science nurses and awakening the natural desire to care for one another.

Our Working Group of seven includes participation from four donor organizations plus three Christian Science Nursing Facilities/Organizations. Since our inception, we've been focused on getting to know the larger donor field and are reaching out to receptive hearts in our Christian Science community, including churches, societies, and individuals, who may not be aware of the opportunities to foster these Collaborative initiatives. Based on past successes, we will begin to formulate some new ideas and creative approaches to funding these essential projects. We rejoice at each step that increases our ability to collaborate.



## Training Access & Affordability Working Group (TRAA)

**Mission:** To help identify and develop alternate sources of training and funding for Christian Science nurses

**How:**

1. Identify the issues (not the individuals, but rather, the needs and the obstacles that we generally hear about)
2. Create a system/format to share ideas and info related to these issues with “the field,” (why it is important and how it impacts them)

This working group is focused on making it possible for qualified individuals who want to get higher-level Christian Science nurses training and become *Journal* listed even if they cannot leave their location and go to a facility.

We will be concentrating our efforts on Christian Scientists who feel called to the ministry somewhere in the world where training is not available or affordable. These individuals may end up serving in facilities, visiting services, or private duty after they receive qualified training.

We expect to work with AOCSN, CSNN, TMC and Working Groups to identify overlaps and places where, if we work together, the result will be more efficient and effective.

We’ve recently conducted a simple survey to help identify issues relating to access and affordability and to gather ideas on how to address these issues. We plan to do a couple more to targeted audiences in the field, then analyze the overall information and take next steps based on what we learn or verify.

## The Leadership and Management Group (L&MWG)

Our group has been gathering information for leadership and management training to help upper-level management (such as Directors of Christian Science Nursing, Executive Directors, and Trustees) access and receive needed training. To undergird our work, we have read the *Manual* to explore the concept of leadership and management that Mary Baker Eddy established for our Church and, consequently, for related organizations.

The approach we take will only fulfill the goal if it is correctly based on the spirit of the *Manual*. We are drawing on material from published sources, small Christian Science nursing organizations, and other non-profits. This effort may include using an assessment tool, establishing a curriculum, face-to-face training, and one-on-one mentoring. As of this moment, we are cherishing and editing a Development Planning Tool which we will hope to eventually share electronically.

An ad hoc committee composed of those with broad practical leadership and management experience, such as administrator, DCSN, and ED backgrounds are carrying this work forward.

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## WELL-ESTABLISHED WORKING GROUPS

### Youth Action Committee (YAC)

The Christian Science Nursing Youth Action Committee (aka YAC) has been actively preparing to launch this new pilot program in September 2021. We are collaborating

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**We are collaborating with seven Christian Science Nursing organizations in the US.**

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with seven Christian Science Nursing organizations in the US. Each site will potentially have two service corps participants for 20 hours a week, for a nine-month program period. The final date for accepting applications is August 15. If you or someone you know is interested, please go to [comforterscalling.org](https://comforterscalling.org) and have them complete an application.

Questions? Reach out to [csnyouthactioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:csnyouthactioncommittee@gmail.com). Another aspect of our outreach is holding events for youth to learn more about Christian Science nursing. We've held two so far and more are being planned. They have been hosted by Asher Student Foundation and by Adventure Unlimited's Discovery Bound 20/30 program so far. Thanks for your support!



### Valuing Christian Science Nurses

#### » Valuing Christian Science Nurses Serving in Organizations (ValCSNO)

The ValCSNO, is moving forward to develop a structured grant proposal form for organizations to use when requesting funds from funders. We are looking at cost of living and housing as we consider how to better support the concept of “living wage” in each organizations’ location. Many Christian Science nursing organizations offer benefits and retirement packages. The working group is exploring how each organization can receive support to expand or enhance benefit and retirement packages they are currently offering.

#### » Valuing Self-Employed Christian Science Nurses (ValCSN:SE)

This ValCSN Self Employed working group, which came into existence about a month ago, is focused on compensation, retirement, and benefits for self-employed Christian Science nurses.

Our mission: To develop a model for additional support including self-employment benefits, compensation shortfall, and retirement.

We value:

- The Manual By-law establishing the role of the Christian Science nurse, a dedicated, holy and essential ministry
- The healing role of the Christian Science nurse and their deep love for God and man
- A shared expression of stewardship to support the ministry of the Christian Science nurse throughout his/her career
- Responsible ways to strengthen practical programs for benefits, retirement, and compensation shortfall which recognize the many types of career changes a Christian Science nurse may experience

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## Communities of Christian Caring (CoCC)

The Communities of Christian Caring Working Group (CoCC) loved being part of the recent CSNN Conference; having the opportunity to share a bit about who we are and what we do.

What *really* is a “community of Christian caring”? Well, it often starts with just one individual who cares enough to see needs in his or her Christian Science community (and there are plenty), and ask the question, “How can I help? How can I support healing?”

So, are you seeing needs in your Christian Science community? Are you wondering how you might be able to form a group to meet those needs? We’d love to work with you in discovering Love’s solutions, for “divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” (*Science and Health*: 494:10-11). Please feel free to reach us at [info@cscocc.org](mailto:info@cscocc.org).

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## Continuing Education Working Group (CEWG)

This working group was formed to support the development of continuing education for *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses. It was acknowledged that the integrity of the *Manual* By-Law, “Christian Science Nurse” — as a “help that must be supplied to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause” (*Manual* 3:9) — would be supported through the consistent availability of opportunities for ongoing education for Christian Science nurses, beyond the existing three- or four-course programs currently available.

The participants in the CEWG have continued to meet regularly to determine and define functional elements that bring a mutually high standard to the workshops and their formatting, and how to manage the participation of the students.

One of the key issues that helps to define our efforts is the understanding that these brief “refresher” presentations

and discussions are designed to be reviews and updates for those who are already fully trained. It would be rare for someone who is not fully trained to attend, and anyone who does would need to understand that the material covered in these brief sessions is not comprehensive or complete.

Two of the overall goals of the Collaborative are being addressed by these efforts:

- To increase the number of qualified Christian Science nurses.
- To increase the quality of patient care.

The intent of these workshops is to support and maintain the high quality of care and a current knowledge of products and practices expected of Christian Science nurses wherever their practice takes them. It is also to give them the opportunity to share what they have learned with others.

The Mother Church has initiated a parallel effort by requiring all *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses to attend a few of these workshops each year. The Christian Science Nursing Activities department notified all *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses at the beginning of this year and has followed up with a questionnaire for them to complete at the time of their renewal for advertising in *The Christian Science Journal*.

The success of this Working Group’s efforts is greatly due to the generous participation of the instructors in our established and accredited training programs. We are delighted to have instructors from Le Verger (that speak Portuguese, Spanish, French, and German) who have provided workshops in these languages to participants all over the world.

Little did we know how vital Zoom would be to our success to this point. This technology platform has enabled us to launch our programs and to reach so many of our Christian Science nurses worldwide!

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We are so grateful for the participation of individuals representing all of our Collaborative organizations. Our current members include: Tina Bilhorn, chair; Kathy Glover, AOCSN; Bonnie Castroman, TMC; Joe Ritter, Albert Baker Fund; Joan Bradley, Principle Foundation; Wendy de la Harpe; Lisa Vollnogle; Mary Roadman, CSNN; Audrey Sentinella, Le Verger; Katherine Napper, Glenmont.

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### International Working Group (IWG)

The International Working Group (IWG) is on track to launch the International Fund for Christian Science Nursing (IFCSN) in Europe, where it will be piloted. It has all the needed funds on hand for the operation of its

first year. Partnering with The Principle Foundation over the past year, the IWG developed policies, an application process and other foundational structures that are needed to launch. During the next month, the working group is planning to meet with European funders to explore the logistics of how the IFCSN will operate and get feedback on some of our plans. The IFCSN, which will be administered by TPF (similar to the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing), will be accepting granting applications from the field as soon as the last pieces of this puzzle are put in place. Shortly, the IWG will also be looking for an European Coordinator and Local Representatives (for each country) to assist in the granting process once the IFCSN is ready to take applications for assistance.

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## FROM OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

### Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing/Steering Committee (STC)

The PhilFo Steering Committee (STC) introduced two new members — Rob Van der Like, from Wellsprings of Florida, and Bob Woodard, from Sunnyside Foundation, at our quarterly meeting on September 24, 2020. Welcome and thank you, Bob and Rob! At the same time, we bade fond farewell to one of our long-time members, Sue Ellen Coughtry, whose grace, wisdom, and joy contributed enormously to the STC's early development and progress. Thank you, Sue Ellen!

Earlier in September, the STC also hosted two gatherings for PhilFo participants to share how each is navigating these times personally as well as organizationally, and what kind of support might be needed. We loved hearing a few “silver lining” stories!

A consistent theme in these meetings was the emerging idea of donor coordination as a means of further

supporting the work of the Collaborative working groups. We are delighted that a Fundraising Working Group was established as an outcome of the CSN Collaborative sessions in October and look forward to all of the good that can be accomplished in the months to come. Additionally, the STC is engaging in conversation with donor organizations to gauge interest and garner input and inspiration regarding next steps for coming together to invest in Christian Science nursing.

We kicked off the New Year with a Philanthropy Forum conference via Zoom on January 28, 2021. The theme was, “The Moral and Spiritual Might of Philanthropy.” Christian Science nursing organizations reported on unanticipated challenges of the past year with inspiring examples of how needs were shared and met — as well as a closer look at resulting and ongoing financial implications. As one attendee remarked, “hearing from representatives of Christian Science nursing facilities and visiting nurse services was indeed eye-opening.”

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With the spring came farewells to two more invaluable Committee members. Thank you to Bob Woodard, who contributed enormously to the Steering Committee during his brief tenure — and to Tiffany Lovett, an inaugural member of the team, whose love for Christian Science nursing, creativity, and vision have been a sustaining force for good.

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### **AOCSN Executive Committee (EC/AOCSN)**

“Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence” (Psalms 140:13).

All Christian Scientists are being called upon to continually “give thanks unto thy name” despite the imposition of the world’s endless fascination with dire prognostications and pandemic lockdowns. Healing is quietly going on. Let us give thanks for the steadfast, selfless work of Christian Science nurses, administrators, support staff, and all those who daily make God foremost in their lives.

AOCSN is grateful for the speakers and panelists who shared their inspiration, insight, and experience during our monthly web events beginning last July. We gathered in fellowship with colleagues and friends — individuals and organizations who make up and support AOCSN — to close our event series at November 10th’s “Meeting of Gratitude,” celebrating many examples of families blessed and healings demonstrated. 2020 was a remarkable year of growth.

### **Our 2021 Annual Business Meeting (and conference)**

The AOCSN Executive Committee (EC) made the decision to continue all meetings virtually during 2021. This will include the Annual Conference and Business meetings. Since the movement of thought — individually and collectively — and the sharing of glorious, right ideas knows neither place nor personality, the members of AOCSN will lose nothing and gain much as we gather virtually. The EC is humbly and lovingly grateful for our whole FAMILY!

### **Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN)**

The Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN) board is grateful for the ongoing opportunity to participate in the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. It is inspiring to witness so many individuals from around the world eager to come together in support of Christian Science nursing. Despite the challenges of this time, the Collaborative continues to broaden its scope and activities — and include organizations, such as CSNN, to also “enlarge the place of thy tent...” (Isaiah 54:2).

We are grateful for the large participation in our biennial 2021 International Christian Science Nursing Conference (ICSNC).

The Collaborative Working Groups were represented at the ICSNC and we had the opportunity to learn about their efforts and share ideas. It was a real international collaboration.

CSNN continues to inform Christian Science nurses of opportunities available to them. On our website, listed on the Continuing Education tab, you can find upcoming events from Christian Science nursing educators, replays of previous educational events, as well as a few resources for Christian Science nursing educators.

We are happy to share that our quarterly outreach of [News and Notices](#) from CSNN now includes updates and information from the different Collaborative Working Groups.

We are grateful for the special support from the CST and for all the thoughtful collaboration in support of Christian Science nursing.

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## Christian Science Nursing Activities of The Mother Church

(Bonnie Castroman, Manager)

Christian Science nursing is certainly an active expression of love for mankind. The recent virtual international conference sponsored by the Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN) reached around the world, gathering Christian Science nurses from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Cameroon, Switzerland, Germany, England, France, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Chile, and our United States. In one of its segments, it included a quote that rings so true for our collaborative work together:

My Beloved Brethren — The chain of Christian unity, unbroken, stretches across the sea and rises upward to the realms of incorporeal Life — even to the glorious beatitudes of divine Love. Striving to be good, to do good, and to love our neighbor as ourself, man's soul is safe; man emerges from mortality and receives his rights inalienable — the love of God and man. What holds us to the Christian life is the seven-fold shield of honesty, purity, and unselfed love.

(*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 200:11–19)

What a privilege it is for the Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church to meet regularly with small groups of dedicated Christian Scientists who have “caught the vision” of how important this one little *Manual By-law* is, in relation to the full expression of Church. For, without the practical expression of Christian caring for our fellow members, neighbors, and the world — how can we accomplish the full purpose and mission of our dear church?

As you read the reports of the collaborative work that is taking place — keep in mind how each of these projects demonstrates an aspect of what Mary Baker Eddy described as her “life purpose” — “to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 207:1).

*It is a joy to do this great work together!*

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